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Prof. Barghoorn: Inside research.

Kremlin Relents After Seizing U.S. Professor as Spy

Prof. Frederick C. Barghoorn is hardly the cloak-and-dagger type.

The 52-year-old bachelor spent most of his time at opposite ends of New Haven's York Street. He was either at his book-lined office or at his modest apartment a few blocks from campus.

Last week Professor Barghoorn, head of Yale University's history department, was at neither address. He was being held by the Soviets on spy charges. It took angry words from President Kennedy to obtain a Soviet agreement to release him. But why the Reds arrested him in the first place remains a mystery.

Professor Barghoorn, who served as U.S. embassy press attache in Moscow in the middle 1940s, was on leave from Yale to gather material for a new book on Soviet political institutions. There were many theories on why he was arrested.

Power Struggle in Kremlin?

Some critics speculated he was seized in protest to critical observations about Russian life in a recent book. Others

Former Central Intelligence Agency chief Allen Dulles, who has always been wary of the practice of swapping American and Russian spies, suggested the Russians might be trying to bargain for return of one of their spies. A chauffeur for the Soviet trading agency Amtorg, arrested by FBI agents on spy charges Oct. 29, in Englewood, N.J., was still in American custody.

There was no word of a swap in the first announcement of Professor Barghoorn's release. But those who agree with the Dulles theory noted that a swap might not be completed for several weeks, if there is one in the works.

Whatever Russia's reasons, its action in arresting Professor Barghoorn and holding him incommunicado was hardly conducive to better relations with the United States. Coming soon after two Soviet-provoked incidents in Berlin, it seemed destined to dash whatever hopes remained of reviving the "Spirit of Moscow" that led to the nuclear test-ban treaty last summer.

Kennedy Is Snappish

President Kennedy said as much at his news conference. "He was not on an intelligence mission of any kind," said he. "... We're concerned not only for his personal safety but because this incident, I think, can have a most serious effect upon ... a widening of cultural, intellectual exchanges." To make his point, the President delayed the start of talks on a new Soviet-American cultural exchange agreement.

Professor Barghoorn himself had questioned the cultural exchange program. In his most recent book, *The Soviet Cultural Offensive*, he argues that the Russians view the exchanges as a means of exporting propaganda and importing technology. But he has always held out hope that increased contact with Westerners might cause the Russians to exert pressures for reform of their government.

He demonstrated his belief in the value of exchanges twice in recent years by leading student groups from Yale on tours